

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A process of preparing a solvent based coating composition comprising mixing
 - A) at least one toner base comprising an acrylic polyol, a cellulose resin, a polyester polyol, and a pigment,
 - B) at least one connector base comprising at least one resin compatible with the resins mentioned in toner base A), and
 - C) at least one reducer base free of resins and pigments.
2. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~coating composition process~~ according to claim 1, wherein the compatible resin in the connector base (B) is selected from an acrylic polyol, a cellulose resin, a polyester polyol, a polyurethane polyol, a vinyl resin, a polyisocyanate, and/or mixtures thereof.
3. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~coating composition process~~ according to claim 1, wherein the toner base (A) comprises at least 25 wt. % on solids of resins and connector base (B) comprises at most 75 wt. % on solids of resins.
4. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~coating composition process~~ according to claim 1, wherein the toner base (A) and connector base (B) together comprise the following resins:
 - 10 - 40 wt.% on solids of cellulose resin,
 - 25 - 60 wt.% on solids of acrylic polyol,
 - 15 - 45 wt.% on solids of polyester polyol, and
 - 0 - 20 wt.% on solids of a compatible resin,the sum of the wt.% indicated for the resins always being 100 wt.%.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~coating composition process~~ according to claim 1, wherein the connector base (B) comprises the same type of resins as toner base (A).
6. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~coating composition process~~ according to claim 1, wherein the connector base (B) comprises the same resins as toner base (A).
7. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~coating composition process~~ according to claim 1, wherein the ~~coating composition~~ the process additionally comprises the step of mixing a cross-linker base (D) with toner base (A), connector base (B), and reducer base (C).
8. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~coating composition process~~ according to claim 6 7, wherein the cross-linker base (D) comprises an isocyanate hardener.
9. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A base coat composition, comprising a~~ The coating composition according to claim 4 13 wherein said coating composition is a base coat composition.
10. **(Currently Amended)** ~~An interior coating composition, comprising a~~ The coating composition according to claim 4 13 wherein said coating composition is an interior coating composition.
11. **(Original)** Method of refinishing a car using the base coat composition according to claim 9.
12. **(Original)** Method of refinishing a car using the interior coating composition according to claim 10.
13. **(New)** A solvent-based coating composition prepared by process of claim 1.

RESPONSE

In the office action, claims 1-12 were pending. Claim 13 has been added herein. Also, please note the dependency of claim 8 has been amended herein to correct a typographical error.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Epple et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,258,897) in view of "*Cellulose Esters, Organic Esters*", Gedon et al., Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology (1993). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to a process for preparing coating compositions that have a very flexible application window in that the use and properties of such resulting coating compositions may be easily modified by the selection of the resins, additives, and/or fillers used in the connector base (B) (see page 3, line 13 to page 4, line 6 of the specification). As clearly set out in the specification, including the examples therein, the coating compositions of the present invention are prepared by mixing components (A), (B), and (C), each of which being selected as set forth therein. It is also clear from the specification that toner base (A) and the connector base (B) are separate components (see for example, page 3, lines 5-7), which are individually selected based on the desired coating uses and/or properties, and mixed together with component (C) to prepare the coating composition.

Epple relates to certain low molar mass polyester polyols and the use of such low molar mass polyols in coating materials and spray surfacers. As stated in the office action, Gedon is cited only as a teaching reference to demonstrate that the cellulose acetobutyrate is known in the art as an additive to coating compositions. Neither Epple nor Gedon teach, disclose or suggest a process of preparing a coating composition according to the present claims.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims and a finding that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

VAN ROOYEN, A. et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle J. Burke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michelle" and last name "Burke" being clearly legible.

Michelle J. Burke

Reg. No. 37,791

Attorney for Applicants

Akzo Nobel Inc.
Intellectual Property Dept.
7 Livingstone Avenue
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522-3408
(914) 674-5459